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PATENT
Docket No. D 8927B-OC/FOHPT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Application of Franz-Josef Carduck, et al., a Continuation under
37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) of:

Serial No. 09/277,399 Examiner: A. Chambers
Filed: 03/26/99 Art Unit: 3753
TITLE: A LIQUID DISTRIBUTOR

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Preliminary to examination, please amend the claims as follows:

Cancel claim 15.

Amend claim 1 as shown below:

1. (amended) A liquid distributor, said distributor being in the form of a channel distributor comprising a drainage outlet in the form of a drainage pipe having a cross-section, at the upper end of the drainage pipe, which tapers downward in the shape of a nozzle, wherein the inner wall of the nozzle is comprised of a material resistant to the adherence of solids which would block the flow of liquid through the outlet.

Add the following claims:

18. (New) A liquid distributor having a tapering drainage pipe in the shape of a

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nozzle.

19. (New) The liquid distributor of claim 18 wherein the inner wall of the nozzle is comprised of a material resistant to the adherence of solids which would block the flow of liquid through the nozzle.

20. (New) The liquid distributor of claim 18 wherein the liquid distributor is in the form of a channel distributor.

21. (New) The liquid distributor of claim 19 wherein the inner wall of the nozzle is made of plastic.

22. (New) The distributor of claim 19 wherein said drainage pipe extends upwards from the bottom of the distributor and comprises an inlet opening above the bottom of the distributor.

23. (New) A liquid distributor comprising a hood, with at least one opening, said hood covering said inlet opening of the drainage pipe against the direct inflow of liquid.

24. (New) The distributor of claim 23 wherein one of the openings of said hood is a horizontally encircling annular gap.

25. (New) The distributor of claim 24 wherein said annular gap is interrupted by webs between the upper and lower parts of said hood.

26. (New) The distributor of claim 23 wherein a plurality of bores, acting as openings are arranged in a horizontally encircling line around said hood.

27. (New) The distributor of claim 23 wherein at least one bore is in the top of said hood.

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28. (New) The distributor of claim 23 wherein the area enclosed by said hood is divided, by an annular inner wall having at least one opening, such that the inlet of said drainage pipe is situated within said annular inner wall.

29. (New) A liquid distributor having a main channel and tapering drainage pipes wherein a preliminary distributor is fitted into the main channel of said distributor and the base of said preliminary distributor extends over the drainage pipes in the form of domes.

30. (New) The distributor of claim 19 wherein a sieve is inserted into said preliminary distributor between the inlet and outlet thereof.

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REMARKS

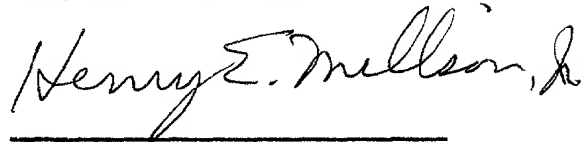
Claim 1 (as amended) and claims 2-14, 16 and 17 are claims which were
allowed in the parent case.

New claims 18-30 have been added to claim additional embodiments of the
invention.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by
the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to
show changes made".

Allowance of claims 1-14, 16 and 17, and an action on the merits of new claims
18-30 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Henry E. Millson, Jr.
(Reg. No. 18,980)
Attorney for Applicant(s)
(520) 445-2453

Cognis Corporation, Patent Dept.
2500 Renaissance Blvd., Suite 200
Gulph Mills, PA 19406

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the claims:

Claim 15 has been canceled.

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (amended) A liquid distributor, said distributor being in the form of a channel distributor comprising a drainage outlet in the form of a drainage pipe having a cross-section, at the upper end of the drainage pipe, which tapers downward in the shape of a nozzle, wherein the inner wall of the nozzle is comprised of a material resistant to the adherence of solids which would block the flow of liquid through the outlet.

Claims 18-30 have been added.